

# Shalom, Educating for Peace Newsletter, December, 2011



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### In brief

In August, a team of students from a university in Kenya visited us in Rwanda. September 21 was World Peace Day, and this year saw SEP involved in activities in Rwanda, South Africa and the US! Jean de Dieu Basabose participated in the Global Peace Alliance Summit that was held in Cape Town in October. A moving tree planting ceremony for peace was held with the Rulindo community later in that same month.

### Kenyan Students visit SEP in Rwanda

On 25th August 2011, A group of 22 students from the Kenya Methodist University who are members of the Peace club paid a visit to SEP. These students have been saving up for months to come to Rwanda to learn from and be inspired by SEPs peace work, as well as other reconciliation efforts in Rwanda.

An exchange session between the Kenya Methodist University students and the Peace Club at Doctrina Vitae College (which SEP has a long relationship with) took place during the visit. The students from Rwanda and Kenya had the opportunity to ask questions, learn from and inspire one another. Marie Therese Mirindi, a board member of SEP, addresses the students, urging them to make use of the opportunities they have. She described how she and others of her generation were never taught about peace. But now, young people have the opportunity to change the course of history through understanding peace and nonviolence.

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### In Rwanda:

Jean de Dieu Basabose  
 P.O. Box 6210, Kigali, Rwanda  
 Tel.: +250 78840 3868  
 e-mail : basajd@yahoo.fr

### In South Africa:

Cori Wielenga  
 Postnet Suite 288  
 Lynnwood Ridge, 0040  
 Tel.: +27 82 400 2505  
 e-mail: coriwielenga@gmail.com

### In the United States:

Mary Coffman  
 1741 Lanier Place NW #3  
 Washington D.C., DC 20009 USA  
 Tel: (001) 919-480-4342  
 email: coffmanm@gmail.com



Student from the Kenya Methodist University visit us in Rwanda

Through the exchange, the idea of developing an initiative aimed at creating a network of peace education clubs in East Africa schools and universities was raised.

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### International Peace Day

21 September is the United Nations peace day where individuals, organizations and even warring groups are encouraged to take action towards making peace a reality in our world. This year, SEP participated in a country-wide peace celebration in Rwanda. Read more about this event [here](#).

In South Africa, Cori participated in the University of Pretoria's peace day event, where staff and students folded 1000 paper cranes, following a Japanese legend. Read more about this [here](#).

Together with the Peace Alliance, Mary handed scoops of Ben and Jerry ice cream to members of Congress. [Here](#) are the details.

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### Activities in the US

SEP has been growing friends-through-service in the area of Washington, DC. Mary has presented on SEP's work at several of Washington's Rotary District 7620 clubs including the [Rotary Club of Dupont Circle](#).

In addition, Shalom co-sponsored a recent event with the [Peace Alliance](#) and the United States Institute of Peace at the US Capitol.

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### Global Peace Alliance Conference

Jean de Dieu Basabose attended the fifth Summit of the [Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace](#) in Cape Town in October. The Summit was endorsed by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and US Congressman Dennis Kucinich. Representatives from nineteen countries, and all five continents, expressed their continued desire to working towards peace infrastructure in their home countries.

Jean de Dieu was again elected to be the leader of the African Alliance for Ministries and Infrastructures for Peace (AAMIP).

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### Rulindo Community Project

As a follow-up to the International Peace Day events and part of the Rwandan Reconciliation week, SEP facilitated a tree planting ceremony in the Gako cell in the Rulindo district. We have an ongoing project in that community and this moving but difficult ceremony brings us a step further in terms of



Motorbikes in the peace parade in Kigali for Rwanda's International Day of Peace



Mary with other peace volunteers from the Peace Alliance on International Peace Day



Mary with Peace Fellow Kristin Post from the Dupont Rotary Club



The participants of the 5th Global Alliance for Ministries and Infrastructures of Peace.

### Upcoming events:

In January 2012, Cori will be in Rwanda for a conference and will be involved in training SEP's partners. We will also hold our annual board meeting during the time.

From February-June, 2012, Jean de Dieu will be take a research fellowship at the University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa.

bringing peace and reconciliation between survivors and perpetrators of the 1994 genocide. Read more about this significant event [here](#).

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### Peace Education through Radio

Peace education through Radio program has continued focusing on moving a broken community towards healing and reconciliation. SEP's approach to promoting anti-corruption education as a way of building positive peace through its Ubufura project has been presented to the listeners. We've also shared about the tree planting for reconciliation activities in Rulindo. We are really grateful to Umucyo Community Radio for continuous support to this program.

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### Get involved!

We urgently need funds to implement the many projects in our action plan for 2012. Donations can be made via credit card [here](#). Every donation, big and small, will make a significant difference in bringing sustainable, positive peace to Rwanda.

We would love to receive feedback, advice, input and materials from any of you who are involved with peace work!

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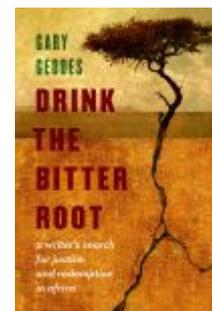


Tree planting during a reconciliation ceremony in the Rulindo Community

### Book on peace and justice

*Drink the Bitter Root: A Writer's Search for Justice and Redemption in Africa* is the title of the most recent book by Gary Geddes in which he explores concepts of justice, from the European courts through to the centre of Africa.

In the book, he describes his encounter with Shalom, Educating for Peace and Jean de Dieu Basabose: "He invited me to listen to a radio broadcast he was giving on a religious station in Kigali. Thinking he would be giving a pat homily on Christ the Prince of Peace, I was chastened to find him quoting from two provocative essays" (pg. 53). Read more about this in Geddes' book!




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**We would like to wish all our friends a peaceful transition into the new year. May 2012 bring reconciled relationships, injustices righted, hurts healed, fears calmed and prospering communities.**

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